



Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Parent Education Work Group – February 25, 2005

Members Present: Dee Cox, Deborah Gangluff, Barbara Gilkey, Dana Gonzales, Christine Hickman, Traci Johnston, Nick Long, Sherry Jo McLemore, Martha Reeder, Lori Satterwhite, Alma Thornton (representing Elaine Davis), Carolene Thornton, and Paula C. Watson. **Visitor:** Beth Beisner, ACAP Intern

Regrets: Elaine Davis, Randy Glenn, Howard Knoff, Linda Russell, and Susan Simmons.

Self Introductions were made by the group.

Agenda Item #1: UPDATE – Strengthening Families Initiative

Discussion: Arkansas is one of seven states that is piloting a new, proven, cost-effective strategy to prevent child abuse and neglect. The strategy involves early childhood centers working with families to build protective factors around children. This effort is not an “add-on,” but a compliment to the AECCS. The AECCS Steering Committee will be combined with the Strengthening Families Initiative (SFI) Leadership Team, and both will be oriented to this approach at the retreat March 10-11, 2005. The combined steering committee has agreed to house/manage sub-groups from SFI under various work groups of the AECCS. The **Public** Education portion of SFI will be housed in the Parent Education Work Group. Part of this groups’ responsibilities will be to plan the statewide kick-off event for SFI, which will occur in Conway at the AETN studios on May 24.

AETN is producing a 30-minute program on child abuse and prevention that will include the five protective factors. This will be premiered at the AETN Conference

special will be re-aired at the May 24 “kick-off” event, as a live 90 minute show that will include audience participation and a panel of experts. The Parent Ed. work group, along with members of the SFI Public Ed. sub-group, is charged with the responsibility of planning and implementing the details of the “kick-off” event.

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Agenda Item #2: Family Development Certification (FDC)/Credentialing

Discussion: If this is pursued, there is a wider area of interest rather than just this group. Dr. Deborah Smith offered two possible dates when she can visit Arkansas. The meeting will be open to everyone from the various work groups. We are looking at April 22 and April 29. The meeting will probably last about two hours. We may try to hold it in Conway so that more people can attend.

Sherri Jo has information on six or seven different certification programs, including Oklahoma and Massachusetts. These relate to colleges.

After discussion, it was decided that at the time the group is interested in a credentialing program for those at the entry level to work with families. It is not like a degreed certification. They are two different things. We do not have anything like this in Arkansas.

In other states they identify core competency needed to work with families. The workers need to understand child development milestones. The clearest example is the Head Start Program. The FDC is a training that will satisfy their staff to work with families.

In some of the programs, workers may wind up working with families who have been or who become involved with the child welfare system or criminal justice system. This group is looking at some ways to provide extra training for those working with parents.

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Result: A decision about the accepted date for Dr. Smith's visit will be made at the Steering Committee retreat on March 10-11, 2005.

Update: The meeting with Dr. Deborah Smith is scheduled for Friday, April 22 at Plaza West Office Building (415 N. McKinley St.) in the first floor conference room. A map to the location is attached.

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Agenda Item #3: Study Circles

Discussion: The Student Facilitator Trainings were held in the Springdale area. A couple of meetings have been hosted in Rodgers, two in Springdale. A few have been held in Spanish. We hope to have one in the rural area. The group has been very active trying to get the Study Circles kicked off. Results are expected before the end of May. The information will be translated from Spanish. It has taken longer to get the Study Circles together than anticipated. There's been quite a bit of media attention. When finished, the study circle groups will come back together in one group. We are encouraging everyone to attend that meeting to hear what every group has to say.

At the kickoff meeting, there were 35-40 people plus the press. Each community will work on their own issues. There is about \$300 available for expenses. In one of the groups, Father's Rights are a concern. There are child-care issues, day care, etc. Each group is asked to come up with an action plan. They are being asked to look at the problem or issue. Action plans will come out at public meetings.

(next column)

We are still hoping to hold a study circle in North Little Rock and in Camden. All concerns must be presented in a positive way. Carolene felt that they do a good job of training facilitators. This group is working hard on study circles. One of the goals is to utilize coalitions that are formed through the Study Circle groups. There will be some pretty good groups formed from study circles. It may be a good way to disburse information. It would be a shame not to take advantage of these new groups.

Sherri Jo mentioned another way to put out information--use the local child abuse prevention councils in each of the counties. Each council must have someone from the local DHS office, Health Department, Law Enforcement, etc. We usually send 50 copies to a certified council. We could notify them that Study Circles are being formed. Sherri Jo suggested that since a mailing be sent to the councils next week that we obtain brochures and include a blurb about getting involved in the Study Circles. To do this, 75 brochures are needed. The mailing is expected to go out Wednesday. It is possible that other community members will be interested in the results.

TASKS: Martha will secure Study Circle brochures for this effort

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Agenda Item #4: Provider Fair

Discussion: Barbara reported on the Pulaski County Provider Fair sponsored by UAMS. There were over 200 providers at the meeting, with many exhibits. Everyone who had an exhibit had to prepare a summary of their program. Many people at the fair did not know about some of the services and resources available to families in the county. DCFS was present. This fair was providers of services providing information to other providers of services. A similar event will be held in Magnolia at the end of March. It was a really good fair and it may be done again

Result:

Agenda Items #5: Reapplication Process

Discussion: As part of the meeting, the group needs to view the goals and take a look at the logic model. The goal information needs to be complete before the Steering Committee Retreat on March 10-11.

It is possible to work Pages 1 and 3 together and then go back to Page 2 to complete.

If there are major decisions they must go to the Interagency Coordinating Committee. Before any major legislation, there must be a study done. Then, with the next session, the need can be demonstrated. If funding is involved, it would need some definite structure to it.

The web site that is being developed would be a great place to house some information.

Once the goals are completed by individuals, all information will be compiled and sent out to the groups.

The Compassion Coalition web site has many of the things we have talked about. It has many portals. You may check out the web site at: www.compassioncoalition.org.

The web site that is being developed will target providers-- not parents directly. New Mexico has a really beautiful web site originally sponsored by Healthy Childcare America. It is a bright, colorful web site. There is a page for the medical community. It is clearly for parents. The SFI people will provide technical assistance on the design of the web site. DHS may provide some of the funding. The New Mexico web site is: <http://www.newmexicokids.org/>

Some of the other committees have a similar interest in the database.

We need to explore strategies to engage the corporate community.

When the goals are sent out again, everyone is asked to review and get back to Martha. The compiled goals will be presented at the Steering Committee Retreat.

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Agenda Item #6: Miscellaneous – Adjourning – Setting of Next Meeting Date

Discussion: Dr. Patti Bokony sent a sheet to our last meeting and it was included with the minutes of January 28. The sheet is a checklist from the Family Foundation Project. It is a checklist for Head Start staff to use to self-assess their level of involvement with parents as part of the training on Connecting Families. She has asked that we review it and get back to her with your feedback.

Patti can be contacted by telephone: 501-660-7526 OR by e-mail: BokonyPattiA@uams.edu.

Dr. Patti Bokony has hoped to be here today, but she is ill. She sent another document called the National Extension Parenting Educator's Framework. It is a framework for what we are doing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Result: The Next Meeting is scheduled in Hot Springs:

DATE: April 4, 2005

TIME: 4:45 – 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hot Springs Convention Center,
Room 207